various factors. But I agree with the hon. Member that the expansion of demand in the domestic economy is the most important factor which will lead to expansion in investment as well. And we are hoping that because agriculture this year is doing better than in the previous two years, this will generate demand in the Indian economy and it will provide the necessary fillip to the growth of the Indian economy.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

New industries in Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Uttaranchal

*203. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of industries proposed to be set up by the Non-Resident Indians in Uttaranchal, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh during the current financial year; and

(b) what steps are being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH): (a) and (b) No proposal for NRI investment has been received in respect of Uttaranchal, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh during the current financial year up to 30.9.2001. The total number of approvals granted for NRI investments in these states during the period 1.8.1991 to 31.3.2001 is as under-

State	No.of NRI cases approved	Amount of NRI Investment approved
Uttaranchal		
Chhattisgarh	4	Rs. 625.00 lakhs
Jharkhand	3	Rs. 157.14 lakhs

Quality of Petro-products

*205. MISS MABEL REBELLO : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the diesel produced by the public sector refineries is 100 times more polluted then that of the world's best; and

(b) what steps Government propose to take to improve the quality of diesel, petrol and other products produced by the public sector refineries?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The Government has taken several steps to improve the quality of diesel, petrol and othei products produced by the public sector refineries. These, inter alia, include the following:—

(i) Reduction of sulphur content in diesel from 1.0% maximum to 0.25% maximum achieved in the year 2000 in the entire country.

(ii) Reduction of sulphur.content in diesel in stages in the four metro cities of Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata as under:
* 1.0% max. to 0.50% max. in 1996.
* 0.50% max. to 0.25% max. in 1998.
* 0.25% max. to 0.05% max. during the period April 2000 to July 2001.

(iii) Supply of only unleaded petrol achieved in the year 2000 in the entire country.

Investments of about Rs. 10,000 crore have been made for improving the quality of diesel and petrol. The Government has set up an Expert Committee, headed by Dr. R. A., Mashelkar, Director General, Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR), to recommend to *the* Government an Alto Fuel Policy for the country. After receipt of its report, the Government would fi the plans for bringing further improvements in quality.

Income-tax exemption to Andhra Pradesh Cultural Council

206. SHRI K. .KAIAWENKATA RAO : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Andhra Pradesh Government has sought income tax exemption for donations to the State cultural foundation being set-up by the Andhra Pradesh Cultural Council to promote diverse cultural activities in the State; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir.